



# ARC-OVER

OCTOBER, 2017 EDITION

## D-STAR ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Yup, there is a D-Star system on your door step, 50 yards from the W6BXN site on Mt. Bullion. The W6HHD repeaters on 145.13, 444.800, 1284.1000 provide digital coverage from Lodi to Visalia. The System is the longest continually operating system in the state of California. K6MDD was the first system followed by W6HHD in the state. However a couple years ago with a big fire on Mt. Diablo, CalFire elected to back fire in the North Peak area to save the vast majority of public service repeaters on Mt. Diablo. This sacrificed K6MDD as well as numerous other ham repeaters located in the same building. K6MDD was primarily funded by a single individual, Tim Barrett, K6BIV. Amateurs in the immediate area were unresponsive to providing funds to replace the system. Tim not willing to spend another \$20,000 plus moved his interest to the new emerging DMR technology, and the K6MDD D-Star system passed into History...

The W6HHD D-Star system was the inspiration of Rick Swanson, KF6FR. He called up one day and said, "Grady we gotta get going on D-Star". What's D-Star I retorted. "Man it's the latest greatest and we gotta have it." A quick look at Google and I responded, TOO much money. "Don't worry about the plastic, you build it and I will pay for it". Called Squeak over at AES in Las Vegas, what's the story Squeak? "Well if your gonna do it now is the time, cause if you buy controller, uhf deck and vhf deck Icom will give you 1.2 voice and 1.2 digital worth a sack full of bucks." Got Rick on the phone with Squeak and ordered complete package plus a couple IC-2820 vhf/uhf mobiles, two IC-92A dual band ht's as well as a couple of 1.2 Mhz Id-1 Transceivers. Rick waved his plastic and I was committed to knocking over my piggy bank to reimburse him for a couple mobiles and a hand-talkie...

All this stuff came in and I started reading up on what it entailed. Gateway? What's a Gateway used for? This sucker uses a Hi-End Computer to tie the radio system to the internet. Whoa! internet on a mountain top? By this time we had exhausted the practicality of placing a cargo container on a mountain top and decided to look at existing installations. The internet, and needed site all fell into place all at once. Sam Gardali, AirCall Communications owned a building 50 yards south of the W6BXN building where he was using an expensive bag-phone cellular package to program the many radio's at his site. Gilbert Arguelles owner of Elite.Net had a wireless internet site on Schultz Mountain near Cathy's Valley. Gil needed a better site to access an installation at Don Pedro Lake. Ended up negotiating unlimited internet access for D-Star, AirCall and space for Gilbert in exchange for building space for the W6HHD repeater. In addition we were able to extend the internet to the W6BXN and K6IXA repeater sites as well. When Gil sold Elite.net to Fire2wire in Salida they agreed to honor all of the sweet heart deals he had made at various locations including Mt. Bullion. This included the web space for the W6BXN web site, but that's another story for another day...

Anyway, started putting this sucker together. Got it going in the ham shack and the instructions said to call Icom in Bellevue, Washington for system implementation to the world wide network. Called the man and he asked which school had I completed. What School? You have to complete a course training in order to be on the network... We just don't let anyone on the network without proper training. OK where is school ? We just completed one in Dallas, Texas, next one is in three months. I vividly pointed out that Dallas was not exactly next door to Atwater. Not to worry says he, we are working on an on-line training package which should be ready in a month or so....

## D-STAR ON YOUR DOORSTEP (cont.)

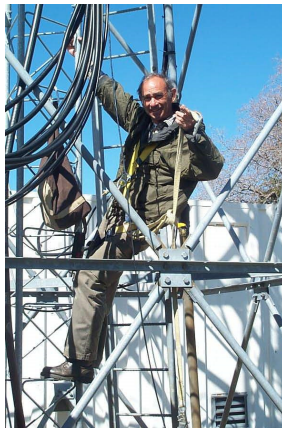
Well we got through the course. Bought the microwave equipment for Gil to establish the Internet link from Bullion to Schultz, hauled it off to the hill and hoped for the best.

Rick purchased most of the equipment needed on the hill. I purchased the UHF duplexer and several miscellaneous pieces. Florencio donated a 1.2 Clair Angle Pre-Amp and Duplexer. Was able to take advantage of a large stockpile of surplus 7/8 hardline and numerous filter cavities available from CalFire warehouse in Mariposa. No expense was spared in making this system first class beyond any question. Besides the nominal contribution by a couple of us, Rick bore the major expense close to \$20,000.

In that this project was privately funded for the most part, we elected to acquire a new station call for the system and a new organization name. The repeater system is licensed as W6HHD the "John H Pitman Memorial Radio Society"... One might ask who was John Pitman? In the early founding days of the Turlock Radio Club, Les Johnson, Ed Cornell, Ed Dervision and numerous other Turlock Hi Students formed the Turlock Amateur Radio Club. Their advisor was the local High School Auto Shop teacher John Pitman. Following suit of the students John got his call W6HHD, thus the repeater was named in his honor. As most of us old timers know John was Principal and Superintendent at THS in the Fifties when most of attended there. By this time Les Johnson, W6DIY had slipped the surly bonds of TID and became the Electronics instructor at Turlock Hi. There is now a second High School in Turlock, aptly named after Mr. Pitman.



Front View



Gilbert installing  
Microwave link  
Equipment to  
Schultz



Back View

Want to find out more about D-Star? Attend Presentation at Club Meeting November 14th, at Electronics Lab, Turlock High School 7:00 pm

THE EASY WAY  
TO GET STARTED



# Turlock Amateur Radio Club Minutes

## Meeting held:

Location - Turlock High School classroom I-4 (electronics) Colorado Ave., Turlock, CA

Date & Time - October 10, 2017 at 7:00pm.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Spencer Boyd (KJ6ART)

Number of Attendees: 22 members and guests attended.

**Vice President's Report:** Dick Decker(K6SUU), it was announced would present a program on

Chinese Radios and how to acquire them with less risk.

**Membership Chairman's Report:** Ed Darrah (K7ERD) reported we currently have 75 members on the roster.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mike Smith, (KG6VFL) not present and Spencer Boyd reported on the

approximate amounts of cash in checking and savings accounts, receipts and expenditures.

**Secretary's Report:** In lieu of a Secretary's report, Spencer Boyd (KJ6ART) entertained a motion that the September Minutes be accepted as printed in the Arc-Over. Ed Darrah (K7ERD) so moved and Bambi Schmidt (KI6YQL) seconded the motion, the motion was thereafter approved.

**Repeater Chairman's Report:** Grady Williams (K6IXA) reported that things were "mostly" working with no complaints. One component was being examined with questions.

**Arc-Over Publisher's Report:** Grady Williams (K6IXA) reported items for the Arc-Over are due by October 17th

## Old Business:

1. Auction report: Grady Williams (K6IXA) reported the upcoming auction was this coming Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup>, giving location and times. A discussion was had on assistance needed the day of the auction as well as set up the afternoon before. A further discussion was had as to the amount of goods available which will require additional auction events next year.

2. Christmas Dinner: Grady Williams (K6IXA) indicated that the dinner was scheduled for December 8<sup>th</sup> at the Covenant Village, Turlock and further indicated that he would put the menu in the upcoming issue of the Arc-Over, that he needed to turn in a "head count" as to attendees 10 days in advance. A discussion ensued as to the \$30 per person dinner charge and that Tax and wait staffing costs needed to be provided by the club in order to hold the \$30 per person basic charge. Wait staff cost was estimated to be approximately \$180.00 for the evening event. Upon motion made by Walter Schmidt (KI6PBL) and seconded by Bambi Schmidt (KI6YQL) and approved by the members, via voice vote, the club will pick up those costs.

3. Turkey trot: 5 to 8 members are needed Saturday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>. Several volunteers signed up but there is a need for several more.

4. Christmas Parade: Dec. 1st is the Turlock City Christmas parade. 12 to 16 volunteers are needed.

5. The Kayla Bernardi Be Positive Run: Saturday January 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 a.m. to noon. 5 to 8 volunteers will be needed.

Adjournment of the business portion of the meeting was by motion made by Bambi Schmidt (KI6YQL), seconded by Ed Darrah (K7ERD), and thereupon the meeting was closed by President Spencer Boyd (KJ6ART) at 7:31 p.m.

**The Drawing:** Les "The Lucky Dog" won the raffle for the Radiodity GD-77, a dual band DMR. \$230 of tickets were sold for the event.

**The program:** After a short break, Dick Decker (K6SUU) gave a very detailed presentation with hand held visual aids (radios) on what to do and not to do when buying a Chinese Radio, his experiences as well as that of others in making on line purchases, the "ins and outs" of warranty providers, and as to the continuing progress the Chinese have been making on quality, particularly as to DMR systems. There was also a brief discussion as to the possibility of starting a DMR net.

That's All Folks

*Walter J. Schmidt* (KI6PBL) a really temporary Secretary, filling in for Lynn Smith (KD6DFK)

## THE PREZ SEZ

With the move of the meeting location under our belt I am looking forward to having more and more students take part in our meetings. In case you missed it, starting in October we moved our meetings to Turlock High School in search for a quieter location. At the October meeting Dick, K6SUU, gave a presentation on buying Chinese radios with the least risk. Also at the meeting Les, WA6EQQ, won the raffle prize which was a Radioddity GD-77 DMR portable.

The auction was certainly a big hit; A few weeks ago TARC spent a Saturday auctioning off all kinds of electronics and ham related gear. On behalf of the entire club I would like to thank everyone who made the auction possible.

With a couple of events coming up this season we need your help. The Turlock Turkey Trot is on the morning of November 18. Also coming up is the Turlock Christmas Parade. We will need the help of about fifteen for that. Please stay tuned to more information about these events and please let me know if you're available to help with the turkey trot: [KJ6ART@arrl.net](mailto:KJ6ART@arrl.net)

The TARC Christmas dinner will be on Friday, December 8 beginning at 6 PM. The dinner will take place at the Berg Hall inside of Covenant Village in Turlock. The cost is \$30 per person. This includes appetizers, your choice of entree, and dessert. All tickets need to be purchased in advanced. Please see me, Spencer, KJ6ART, at the next club meeting and will be sure to get you on the list. It is promised to be a good evening of fellowship and celebration of the season.

### DECEMBER 8th CHRISTMAS BANQUET

#### **Appetizers:**

- Spring Rolls served with Orange Ginger Sauce
- Chicken Satay with Teriyaki Glaze
- Crudit  Platter

#### **Salad:**

Spring Mix, Romaine topped with cranberries, walnuts and feta cheese. Served with house dressing

#### **Main Coarse:** (choice of one entr e per person)

- Lobster Tail with Garlic Butter Sauce
- Beef Tenderloin with Mushroom Demi Glaze
- Chicken Cordon Bleu with Hollandaise Sauce

Twice Baked Potatoes with cheddar, chives and bacon crumbles  
Saut ed seasonal vegetables

Assorted Dinner Rolls

#### **Dessert:**

Lemon Berry Mascarpone Cake

#### **Beverages:**

Orange Infused Water, Iced Tea, Coffee/Hot Tea Service

#### **Service:**

Waited Service, china and silverware, linen napkins and table cloths, set up/clean up.

Meal: \$30 per person

Editor K6IXA



## **CLEAR TO LAND** by Grady Williams K6IXA

I got the following email from Gary Wheeler recently:

I have the pleasure to announce that the call sign W6MMH has been reassigned from the late Frank D. Wheeler, (1920-2013), of Escalon, CA, to his son Gary Wheeler, an architect in Modesto, CA for Conrad Asturi Studios.

Gary passed his Technician's exam in August (missed two questions), has one of those handy talkies made out of the inexpensive but Versatile Chinesium. His father, grew up on a farm in Washington state, got interested in Ham radio as a teenager, and served the Army Air Corps in North Africa and the Middle East in WWII in communications and air traffic control. He may have had his ham ticket as early as 1939 when he graduated high school. He served the FAA as an air traffic controller, moving to Modesto from the Bay Area when the Modesto tower was new. He was an early member of the TARC. On retiring he got his bachelor's degree, taught electronics at Turlock High School, and Modesto Junior College and went back into farming for a time. Gary's proud to try to carry on a little of his father's legacy. Gary hopes to set up a solar powered emergency capable station. He remembers Field Day and work days with the TARC group fondly.

**Great** to hear that Gary was able to pick up his dad's call. Many fond memories of Frank. He was an air traffic controller at the Modesto tower in Modesto when I was learning to fly. I believe Frank was one of the initial controllers when the tower was first opened in the late 60's early 70's... He and some guy who resembled Johnathon Winters manned the tower. I recall as a student pilot, our friend (lets call him Jon) had trouble handling more than one aircraft in the pattern at one time. I was on short final over the numbers, just about to touch down on runway 28 left and all of a sudden, good ol Jon realized he had allowed a following aircraft get too close to me. Just as I was about to touch down he changed me to 28 right.. He couldn't be talking to me, I had just squeaked the tires on the runway. Yes, he was and proceeded to summarily chew my backside out over the radio. Well that didn't set too well with the wiry little instructor I had. He jumped on the phone and offered to ascend the tower and give him a good whuppin if he ever pulled a stunt like that again to one of his students. Besides, at that time they were doing a traffic operations count on take off and landing aircraft operations, to justify continued operation of the tower under tight budget restraints. Consequently he offered to take his students out to New Jerusalem airstrip for practice thus cutting down on the number of operations at Modesto for their precious airplane count...

The new control tower imposed new restrictions on non-radio equipped aircraft. Most notable was Bud Fountain who flew a duster for Hawk Aviation. Previously he would land every which way straight in without a traffic pattern. All of this came to an immediate halt. Bud you have to give us some semblance of a pattern. So he came down wind directly over the airstrip, did an inverted Immelmann for base to final approach. Screeches of horror, that didn't seem to meet the perceived requirements of the local FAA. The agreement for departure, called for Bud to complete his run up then follow with a 360 degree turn when he was ready for departure... This particular day Frank was working Tower and Jon was working ground. So when Bud did his 360, it was Jon who was supposed to flash him the green light. No light, second 360 still no light. Frank sez Jon, Bud is ready to go. Awh Heck It will do him good to wait. Third 360, by this time the ol Pratt Whitney with 84" prop was throwing gravel half way to the Tuolumne river adjacent to the airport. Frank reached over and gave Bud the green light. Bout that time the tower chief ascended the ladder into the tower just as Bud pointed the ol Stearman at full bellowing RPM directly for the tower cab. Everyone present soon figured, Bud has lost it and was going to take out the tower cab in one last act of desperation. Frank said you should have seen all three of them trying to fit down the narrow stairwell entrance at the same time. When Bud pulled up Frank said you could read the part # on the valve stem tube of the 450 Pratt-Whitney engine... Needless to say all heck broke loose... Bud was a legend in his own time. When they had completed the dedication of the Old Oakdale Road Bridge across the river south east of the airport, Bud flew the Stearman under the bridge with an estimated 6 inch clearance on each wingtip... He eventually began flying for himself out of a strip in the Riverbank area... In the midst of a busy season, things were getting a bit too hectic for one of his pilots. He cautioned Bud ya better slow down or someone is going to get hurt... Well one morning, Bud had to hand prop the ol Stearman, not a chore for the faint hearted... Bud gave 'r a crank an that sucker started with a roar... He has set the throttle a bit to high... It jumped the chock blocks and started going around in ever increasing larger circles and it soon became a question of which it was going to hit first the house or the hanger... Bud ran into the hanger and grabbed a 45 Pistol he kept in a desk drawer, ran out and shot one of the cylinders. That brought things to an immediate screeching halt...

Frank relates another story, about Dick Scetchiem, yes another crop duster... I had the opportunity to witness this one. It was a real windy day with the wind out of the west, southwest. Dick took off and at about 500' throttled the old Cub back to a stationary position being held in place by the strong wind, requested a right turnout from the tower, then throttled back a bit more and began to drift off to the east northeast backward. To my recollection I believe he is the only guy who ever flew from Modesto to Oakdale backwards in a Cub. Dick normally flew an old Taylorcraft a small two place aircraft.. Dick was about 6' 4" 300 lbs all lean and mean.. He had a plywood box behind the seat... He occupied the entire front seat... I saw him take off with two guys in the plywood box and a 10 speed bicycle duck taped to the wing strut... Dick's Taylorcraft was also one of those radio-less aircraft... I asked Frank what do you guys do when Dick wants to take off in that mode? We just give him the green light and pretend we didn't see ANYTHING.

Last story, United had an 11:00 pm flight.. A little before 10:00 landing lights appeared on final approach... Did you clear anyone to land? Frank responded, not me, lets see what happens... A Boeing 737 touched down, with a startled look on the co-pilots face with an immediate full throttle take-off... Moments later Stockton was on the shout down, Modesto did you have a 737 do a touch and go there.. Frank and his partner knew well what had happened.. Modesto and Stockton are identical looking at night with respect to the airport and its relationship to the city... Only thing at Stockton the tower is on the pilots side of the runway, explaining the startled look on the co-pilots face when he saw the tower appear on the right side of runway. They looked at each other and agreed they had seen NOTHING... "OK Stockton replied, just curious we had them drop off the radar momentarily." Tons of paperwork not to mention possible suspensions that were obviously avoided...

Frank, Thanks for the Memories

## Auction Stuff

Great Auction HUH? A special thanks to all who helped out. The equipment haulers, those who brought items to the auction table and a special thanks to Kurt and the kitchen mob for an superb luncheon. WELL DONE !!! All of the estate items sold with the exception of the 52' crank-up tilt over tower, Hy-Gain TX-6 Thunderbird Antenna and a multi-band HF vertical... In that our primary concern is for the widows of the departed ham there might be times when it is prudent to hold an item back for later disposition or auction. With clear conscious we cannot just give an otherwise expensive item away when the sale just simply runs out of potential money... Thus was the case in this event... To that end if you are interested in the above Items please contact me for a deal that is a bargain for you yet gives proper respect to the estate... Normally we would hold over to the next auction, however equipment is still loaded on the trailer for transport. It would be more prudent to sell now and avoid unloading, storage and reloading for next auction.. Here is Pix of the tower which has new base and anchor bolts, along with tilt-over assembly. Complete engineering drawings, installation data etc. Local delivery possibly can be arranged. Give this one a close look.



Th6-DX Tri Bander (file picture)



Hy-Gain HG52 Tower



Hustler 4btv Vertical  
(File Picture)

If you are interested in any of these items  
Please contact me at [gradyw@elite.net](mailto:gradyw@elite.net) or  
209-761-1121

Your Auctioneer, Grady K6IXA

Can make you a great packaged DEAL!

NOW get ready for our spring auction sometime in April... The estate of a ham who was a member of the local antique radio club who lived in Sacramento will be featured. Pictures already posted at: [www.http://w6bxn.org/auction/](http://www.w6bxn.org/auction/) 122 Pictures are currently posted with MORE to come. Lots of Good Surplus and Vintage equipment... Spread the word to your collector friends, DON'T miss this one...